(c) the cost of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) to (c) The details are as follows:

	Estimated Cost (Rs. in lakhs)	Physical Progress	Target date of Completion
Bridge	253.00	36%	December, 2002
Approaches	643.00	25%	March, 2003

Promotion of SSIS

3937. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether PHDCCI study has mooted a 10 point agenda for SSIs to make them competitive and to provide a major policy thrust for limiting imports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to promote SSIs and for limiting imports and protecting SSIs by putting up tariff barrier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As reported by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), New Delhi, they have conducted a study entitled "Post QR regime: Making Small Scale Industry WTO Compatible" in which an 11 point agenda has been mooted for

making the Small Scale Industries (SSIs) competitive. The details of this agenda are at Statement (*See* below).

Government is constantly monitoring the impact of the removal of Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) and WTO Agreements on the economy including SSIs in the country. While the removal of QRs have exposed the SSIs to greater competition, there has not been any surge in imports as a consequence of this step. Even after the removal of QRs, protection to the industries is available in the form of raising custom duties upto the bound levels, imposing anti-dumping duties, taking safeguards measures in case of surge in imports, etc.

The Government has put in place several measures to help SSIs become globally competitive. These include special focus on areas such as technology upgradation, infrastructure assistance through cluster approach, timely availability of credit, adoption of modern management practices, use of electronic infrastructure and other IT applications to face the emerging challenges of trade liberalization.

A comprehensive policy package for the development of SSIs has been announced on 30th August, 2000. The policy package will enhance the competitiveness of SSIs through easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loan up to Rs. 25 lakhs, capital subsidy for technology upgradation and improved infrastructure.

Statement

Details of the 11 point Agenda as indicated in the study entitled "Post Qr Regime: Making Small Scale Industry WTO Compatible" Conducted by PHD Chamber of Commerce Industry, New Delhi to Make the SSIs Competitive.

1. *Make efforts to match prices of domestic products with world prices by adopting waste-reducing techniques, making improvements in designs, use of better materials, improved inventory management, etc.*

2. Innovate/design new products and upgrade product quality to ensure that the consumers are not diverted towards imported products.
3. Adopt international/Indian product standards.
4. Ensure better packaging for domestic and export markets.
5. Ensure compliance with pre-determined delivery schedules.
6. Obtain patents for their products.
7. Expand the industrial units vertically by installing modern machinery rather than starting another small unit.
8. Explore areas for ancillarisation and develop linkages with other enterprises.
9. Restructure management and marketing practices.
10. Look for collaborations and tie-ups with foreign firms, which will take care of export marketing through their established channels and provide financial support.
11. Improve productivity of labour.

Increase in units under SSI sector

†3938. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether its is a fact that the number of industrial units under the Small Scale Sector has increased in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the number of these units at the end of March, 1998 and March, 2001;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the number of sick units has also increased in the Small Scale Sector during the said period; and

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.